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STYLE

Black-tie season is in full swing, but it's time to stand out from the crowd, says Dylan Jones

CULTURE + COVER If you were on a desert island, what book would you want with you? We





Celebrating the people and places of Mayfair, our awards this week focus on Long Service and Only in Mayfair







Whether it's jewellery bedecked in beautiful gemstones, or art inspired by nature, this year's PAD fair is out of this world

WONDERS

BY REYHAAN DAY





AD London returns to Berkeley Square this month for its 12th edition of the now-iconic fair – showcasing the very best in contemporary, modern and historic design and art; tribal art and antiquities; and jewellery. "PAD London will host an unparalleled selection of international galleries across the disciplines of design, art, antiquities, tribal art and collectible jewellery," says Patrick Perrin, who founded PAD Paris in 1997 and PAD London in 2007 – with the fair expanding to Geneva earlier this year.

Among the expertly curated selection of pieces on display at some 68 stands, eagle-eyed visitors to the fair might notice two themes in particular emerging from the selection of treasures.

COLLECTIBLE JEWELLERY

Aficionados of gemstones, diamonds and gold will be in their element with PAD London 2018's focus on jewellery — with striking pieces from veteran and first-time exhibitors set to make the fair shine. "We are particularly looking forward to discovering the displays of our new jewellery galleries, Lorenz Bäumer and Walid Akkad from Paris and Valéry Demure from London, joining our prestigious exhibitors in the field, such as Siegelson from New York and Hemmerle from Munich — all bringing a dazzling array of antique and contemporary pieces," says Perrin.

The fair's president advises visitors to look out for master British jeweller Glenn Spiro's stand, which will showcase elegant pieces decorated with unusually coloured gems and innovative titanium-crafted avantgarde designs, often inspired by nature, that have made his pieces some of the most coveted in the world. Trained at Cartier – starting as an apprentice at just 15 – and Christie's, Spiro's atelier is housed in the famous mirrorlined rooms in Mayfair that once belonged to royal couturier Norman Hartnell.

Also representing London is the aforementioned dealer Valéry Demure, who has garnered a name for herself as an in-demand jewellery and accessories consultant to some of the world's most loved brands. Since 2012, Demure has operated The Valéry Demure Shop, an online platform for customers to buy exquisite jewellery and accessories that are rare, vintage or modern. Her eye for exceptional craftsmanship and those small details that elevate a piece to 'icon' status, Demure's stand is not to be missed.

Paris's Lorenz Bäumer, who boasts an enviable location for his boutique at the chic Place Vendôme, comes to PAD London for the first time this year - though in-the-know fans might recognise his signature style, with Bäumer spending seven years as artistic director at Louis Vuitton, and also designing Chanel's most striking jewellery for two decades. Seek out his stand to peruse the latest in an exploration of refined jewellery design that has stretched to 25 years under his own name. Another new exhibitor and also from the French capital is Lebanese designer Walid Akkad, who will display his timeless works that eschew contemporary trends in favour of a simple beauty achieved through clean cuts and designs and a reverence of natural forms; while Parisian designer Frédérique Mattei's unique sculptural pieces take influences from ancient civilisations combining precious stones and elements from ancient ornaments sourced from across the globe.





TOP: Charles Loloma, turquoise, lapis lazuli and gold cuff bracelet, circa 1975
Courtesy Siegelson
ABOVE: Lorenz Bäumert, bracelet
OPPOSITE FROM TOP: Polly Wales, La Divine triple stack
Courtesy Vallery Demure;
Lorenz Bäumer, Scarabée d'Été brooch;
Suzanne Syz, Shop Til You Drop earrings





CONTEMPORARY DESIGN INSPIRED BY NATURE

The natural world is increasingly a point of influence for many industries – from fashion to restaurants and music; but none more so than design, which has seen countless makers and craftspeople adopt the artful patterns, alien forms and organic lines witnessed in nature. This year's PAD London is set to put the spotlight on a number of designers and artists who are embracing wildlife in a big way.

Sasha Sykes, who is represented at the fair by Peter Petrou, will have her stunning *Gyre (From the sea)* exhibited: a work combining foraged material – from algae to more complex forms like birds' nests – with hand-cast resin suspending the vivid colours and patterns seen in nature. Sykes' pieces adopt a strong sense of composition, thanks to her training as an architect – a facet to her work that contrasts interestingly with her focus on the unpredictable forms of the natural world.

Peter Petrou is also bringing Danish glassmaker Steffen Dam to PAD London; Dam captures otherworldly shapes inspired by embryonic underwater life forms within glass. The artist-comecraftsman creates these pieces, which owe heavily to the "cabinet of curiosities" collections that began in the late 16th century, by combining impurities like air bubbles, ash, soot and cracks with metallic oxides and foils to preserve three-dimensional shapes in both flat panels and in solid glass cylinders.

Bringing nature's most abstract forms to Mayfair is Marlène Huissoud – represented by south London-located Sarah Myerscough Gallery. The artist's *Cocoon* collection consists of sculptural works that are made from thousands of silkworms' cocoons, varnished with a thin layer of a dark natural honeybee bio resin. The Central Saint Martins graduate's works, which by their very nature are sustainable thanks to the reuse of insect materials, have been exhibited worldwide including at the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Design Museum Barcelona – and have helped Huissoud achieve a nomination for the Material Innovation Award by the Arts Foundation UK, as well as being named in the Design Council's 70 Ones to Watch list.

Gallery FUMI on Hay Hill will be showcasing wall-mounted sculptural works by Rowan Mersh, who looks to nature to inform





his intricately crafted pieces. Using responsibly sourced materials – from oyster shells to wooden sticks coated with marble dust – Mersh creates organic constructions that seek close inspection. Painstakingly assembled by hand in Mersh's London studio, pieces such as his *Fluens Aeris* marry elements evoking the natural world's most unusual life forms – from the tentacles of sea anemones and coral to feathers and fur.

Taking natural inspiration in a less literal direction is Germanborn, Netherlands-based woodworker and designer Valentin Loellmann, who, from his Maastricht studio, creates flawless designs inspired by nature's organic forms, with all joints hidden to preserve the illusion of these supremely crafted objects coming from the natural world. In 2013, Loellmann's spring-summer console was awarded PAD London's Best Contemporary Design Piece; and his works have been exhibited in renowned museums including Lausanne's MUDAC and Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam. The designer's works are represented by Paris's Galerie Gosserez.

Also from Paris is Galerie Avant-Scène — Elisabeth Delacarte's powerhouse set on Place de l'Odéon. This year's fair will see the gallery display pieces that blur the lines between art and design — which look to the abstract outlines and intricate markings that appear on leaves, shells, stems, stalactites and honeycomb. Exhibiting artists include Franck Evennou with his Three Leaves and Aloe side tables; Mark Brazier-Jones' Molecular Agate Console; and Hubert Le Gall's Sunflower candlesticks.

For the full list of exhibitors, visit www.pad-fairs.com/london. October 1 to 7, Berkeley Square







FROM TOP: Marlène Huissoud,
Cocoon; Steffen Dam, Sea Life
installation
Courtesy Peter Petrou;
Rowan Mersh, Fluens Aeris,
Courtesy Lesley Lau Gallery FUMI
OPPOSITE FROM TOP: Franck
Evennou, Three Lotus Leaves
coffee table;
Hubert Le Galle Sunflower
candlesticks
Bath courtesy levent Schon;
Sasha Sykes, Gyre
Courtesy Peter Petrou